

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:

writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing, where the data set has a characterized read error rate as a function of write timing at the area that has the spatial features:

reading the data set from the optical disc;

determining a read error rate for the data set; and

adjusting the write timing based on comparing the read error rate of the data set and the characterized read error rate as a function of write timing.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

observing whether the read error rate increases when write timing is shifted in one direction.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

observing whether the read error rate decreases when the write timing is shifted in one direction..

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

repeating the steps of writing a data set, reading the data set, and determining a read error rate for the data set, multiple times.

5. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;

- reading the data set from the optical disc;
- determining a first read error rate for the data set;
- adjusting the write timing;
- writing the data set at the area on the optical disc that has spatial features;
- reading the data set from the optical disc;
- determining a second read error rate for the data set;
- selecting a lowest read error rate among the first and second read error rates;

and

- choosing a write timing corresponding to the lowest read error rate.

6. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

- writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;
- reading the data set from the optical disc;
- determining a read error rate for the data set;
- adjusting the write timing; and
- repeating the preceding steps until the read error rate is less than a predetermined value.

7. (Original) A method, comprising:

- writing a first data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing;
- writing a second data set, with the write timing, at an area on the optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing;
- reading the first data set and the second data set from the optical disc;
- determining a first read error rate for the first data set, and a second read error rate for the second data set;

comparing the first and second error rates; and  
adjusting the write timing based on the comparison of the first and second error rates.

8. (Previously Presently) A method, comprising:

writing a data set, having a known error rate as a function of write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;

reading the data set;

measuring a read error rate;

comparing the read error rate to the known error rate as a function of write timing to determining a write timing error.

9. (New) A system comprising:

means for writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing, where the data set has a characterized read error rate as a function of write timing at the area that has the spatial features:

means for reading the data set from the optical disc;

means for determining a read error rate for the data set; and

means for adjusting the write timing based on comparing the read error rate of the data set and the characterized read error rate as a function of write timing.

10. (New) The invention of claim 1 further comprising means for observing whether the read error rate increases when write timing is shifted in one direction.

11. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising means for observing whether the read error rate decreases when the write timing is shifted in one direction.

12. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising means for repeating the steps of writing a data set, reading the data set, and determining a read error rate for the data set, multiple times.

13. (New) A system comprising:

means for writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;

means for reading the data set from the optical disc;

means for determining a first read error rate for the data set;

means for adjusting the write timing;

means for writing the data set at the area on the optical disc that has spatial features;

means for reading the data set from the optical disc;

means for determining a second read error rate for the data set;

means for selecting a lowest read error rate among the first and second read error rates; and

means for choosing a write timing corresponding to the lowest read error rate.

14. (New) A system comprising:

means for writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;

means for reading the data set from the optical disc;

means for determining a read error rate for the data set;

means for adjusting the write timing; and

means for repeating the preceding steps until the read error rate is less than a predetermined value.

15. (New) A system comprising:

means for writing a first data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing;

means for writing a second data set, with the write timing, at an area on the optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing;

means for reading the first data set and the second data set from the optical disc;

means for determining a first read error rate for the first data set, and a second read error rate for the second data set;

means for comparing the first and second error rates; and

means for adjusting the write timing based on the comparison of the first and second error rates.

16. (New) A system comprising:

means for writing a data set, having a known error rate as a function of write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;

means for reading the data set;

means for measuring a read error rate; and

means for comparing the read error rate to the known error rate as a function of write timing to determining a write timing error.